

# Historical Context of Post – Colonial New Zealand

Looking at the treaty of Waitangi and  
issues that arose from it



# Location of New Zealand



- The country geographically comprises of two main land masses - the North Island (Te Ika- a- Maui) and the South Island ( Te Waipounamu).
- There are also several smaller Islands which make up the NZ land mass.
- New Zealand is situated about 1500 Km east of Australia (across the Tasman sea) and roughly 1000 Km south of the pacific Island areas of New Caledonia, Fiji and Tonga.
- Because New Zealand is so remote - it was one of the last lands to be inhabited by humans.



# Ancient discovery of New Zealand



- First person to discover New Zealand was the explorer Kupe over 1000 years ago
- He arrived in the North of NZ at Hokianga Harbor which is just past Auckland



# Maori arrival in New Zealand



- The first Maori settlers began to arrive in NZ from the years 1250 – 1300 AD
- Maori traditions speak of several Waka's (canoes) arriving at different parts of the country around this time.



# Food/hunting



- Moa bird was hunted to extinction before the arrival of Europeans



- Scattered across New Zealand today are still remains of cannibal feasting sites.



# Maori Culture



Mana = Status

Utu = Revenge

- Because these two were central to the culture it led to widespread warfare as individuals and tribes tried to gain more respect and status - while also revenging wrongs caused in the past.
- War was a major part of Maori culture and to not engage in war for conquest - showed that you were weak, which meant you lost mana.





# Maori Pa



- The Maoris' lived in and built fortified villages called Pa's and were situated on strategic pieces of lands and on defensible positions

- Greenstone – the most important pre European trade item



# European Discovery



Abel Tasman was the first European to discover New Zealand. He arrived in 1642 and chartered the west coast. He was also the one who named New Zealand. However he did not set foot in the country because of the hostile Maoris'.



The next European to arrive in New Zealand was Captain James Cook in 1769. He circumnavigated and mapped both Islands and returned to Britain with reports on the countries resources and the inhabitants.



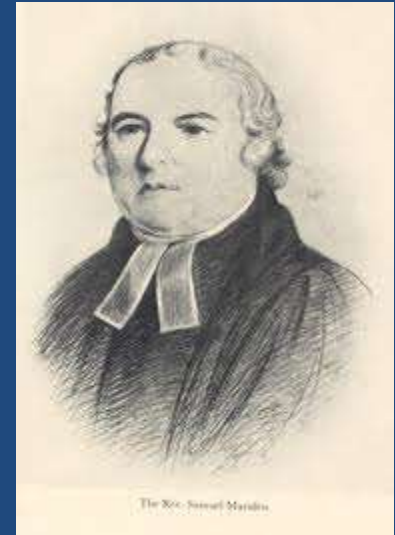


# Early Europeans in NZ



- Whalers and traders began to arrive in New Zealand from the 1790's.

- The item that Maori wanted to trade for the most was the musket. By having the musket it meant that they would have the advantage over other tribes.



- Samuel Marsden was the first missionary to arrive in New Zealand in 1814



# Treaty of Waitangi 1840



In the 1830s the British government came under increasing pressure to curb lawlessness in New Zealand, to protect British traders, and to forestall the French, who also had imperial ambitions.

at Waitangi on 6 February 1840, William Hobson, New Zealand's first governor, invited assembled Maori chiefs to sign a treaty with the British Crown. The treaty was taken all round the country, as far south as Foveaux Strait, for signing by local chiefs, and eventually more than 500 signed.



# Treaty Articles

- **Article One**
- **Maori:** chiefs gave the queen 'te Kawanatanga katoa' – the governance or government over the land.
- **English:** chiefs gave the queen 'all the rights and powers of sovereignty' over the land.
- **Article Two**
- **Maori:** confirmed and guaranteed the chiefs 'te tino rangatiratanga' – the exercise of chieftainship – over their lands, villages and 'taonga katoa' – all treasured things. Maori agreed to give the Crown a right to deal with them over land transactions.
- **English:** confirmed and guaranteed to the chiefs 'exclusive and undisturbed possession of their lands and estates, forests, fisheries, and other properties'. The Crown sought an *exclusive* right to deal with Maori over land transactions.
- **Article Three**
- **Maori:** The Crown gave an assurance that Maori would have the queen's protection and all rights – 'tikanga' – accorded British subjects. This was close to an accurate translation of the English text.



# NZ Land Wars 1840 - 1872



The wars for the most part were fought over land loss

- War in the North in 1845 - 1846
- War in Taranaki and Waikato in the 1860 - 1864
- Two chiefs, Te Kooti and Tītōkōwaru, prolonged war through the 1860s, but by 1872 the wars over land had ended.



# Post colonial effect on Maori

- Maori continued to live in remote rural communities until the Second World War.
- Post-war Maori migration into the cities, together with Maori anger at their economic deprivation and concern about their mana and continuing loss of land, pushed race relations and the place of the Treaty of Waitangi into the forefront of national life.
- Issues within NZ are still ongoing regarding the interpretation of the treaty of Waitangi, with it being a major issue in the politics of NZ even today
- Maori have also become more assertive regarding the treaty, with some alleging breaches of the treaty and wish to regain and reclaim Maori sovereignty.
- In 1975 the Waitangi tribunal was set up, which is used to consider Maori claims and grievances.
- In 1985, the tribunal was empowered to look at breaches of the treaty since 1840 - this tribunal is still going on today and estimates still say that it will be at least another 50 years until all settlements are made.



# Post colonial effects of New Zealand

- The effect that post colonialism is still having on NZ is that out of the two different cultures that met and clashed in colonial NZ (European and Maori) the identity of New Zealanders today has been created by both these cultures merging together to create a hybrid crossed culture which has made the NZ culture to what it is today-
- This is identified within post colonial contexts as a newly syncretised part of an inevitable, ongoing process. James Clifford identifies in "the Global Issue: A symposium:
  - in this he says that 'This process is not that of modernisation which is monocultural but of global interconnectedness in the legacy of imperialism which in turn has at least three processes are always going on. One is the disappearance of certain orders of difference. The second is a process of *translating* orders of difference. And the third is the creation of new orders of difference'.

('Post-Colonialism or Post-Imperialism?', 1996)





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